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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2743

5

DATE MAILED: 07/17/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/833,511

Applicant(s)

Lester F. Ludwig.

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Group Art Unit

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☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 7, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 5

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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Specification

1. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37

CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph, as failing to provide enabling disclosure.

3. Claims 3-6, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification does not explain or specify what is contained in claims 3 and 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

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5. Claims 1-4, are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Shibata et al. (US PAT. 5,365,265 filed 07/15/92 hereinafter Shibata).

Regarding claim 1, Shibata discloses multipoint teleconference system comprising: AV capture and reproduction capabilities (200,210) for capturing video images and spoken audio of a participant in a videoconference; a monitor in 200 for displaying visual images associated with at least one participant; audio reproduction capabilities in 210; and an echo canceler 1200 (Fig. 12) in the audio processor 212 to reduce echo during reproduction of the audio (Figs. 2, 12, 13, col. 3 lines 64-58, col. 4 lines 1-62, col. 12 lines 13-25).

Regarding claims 2-3, 4, Shibata further shows the following: an audio adder 1212 (audio summer) for receiving the captured audio of first, second and third participant and combining the received audio of the second and third participants into an audio sum for reproduction at the apparatus of the first participant (Fig. 12, 13, col. 4 lines 56-63, col. 12 lines 64-68, col. 13 lines 1-35); an audio control configured to cause the reproduction of the audio sum at the participants work station such that the composition of the audio originating from each of the second and third participant's reproduced at each speaker is dependant on a position of the second and third participants images reproduced on the first participants' workstation monitor; an echo canceler 1200 (Fig.12) is included in the housing (Figs. 2-5, col. 4 lines 42-68, col. 5 lines 1-38).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 5, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Ohnsorge (US PAT. 5,485,504, the subject matter claimed is in the parent application filed on 07/15/92) and Flohr (US PAT. 5,374,952, the subject matter claimed is in the parent application filed on 06/03/93).

Regarding claims 5, 6 Shibata does not teach the following: a wireless communication connection between the housing and a signal transmitting network; docking station for adding bandwidth to signals at the housing; wireless communication connection configured to accept signals transmitted by cellular telephone channels.

However, Ohnsorge discloses hand-held radio telephone with video transmission and display which teaches wireless communication connection between the housing and a signal transmitting network; wireless connection configured to accept signals transmitted by cellular telephones (Fig. 1, 2, col. 2 lines 1-36).

Flohr discloses video conferencing system which shows pc nodes 101 (docking station) for adding bandwidth to signals at the housing (Fig. 8, col. 13 lines 19-27).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Shibata's system to have the following: a wireless communication connection between the housing and a signal transmitting network, wireless communication connection configured to accept signals transmitted by cellular telephone channels. as this would offer

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independence and freedom to move the housing to any location without being constrained by the availability of communication connection and also would enable to receive cellular calls; docking station for adding bandwidth to signals at the housing as this would allow full video conferencing capability of the system for the user.

8. Claims 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Flohr.

Regarding claim 7, Shibata shows the following: plurality of workstations (Fig. 1) each including a unitary housing having a first monitor in 200 for displaying video images, and AV capture and reproduction capabilities (200,210) for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants; a network (second network) for providing an AV path, for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants, among workstations for reproduction at least one monitor associated with the workstation of the participant (Fig. 2, col. 3 lines 66-68, col. 4 lines 1-33).

Shibata differs from the claimed invention in not showing: a network (first network) providing a data path along which data can be shared among a plurality of the participants and displayed on the monitor.

However, Flohr teaches a the use of LAN cable 100 that provides data path along which data can be shared among a plurality of the participants and displayed on the monitor (Fig. 8 col. 13 lines 19-37).

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Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Shibata's system to provide a network (first network) providing a data path along which data can be shared among a plurality of the participants and displayed on the monitor as this would provide an economical way of transmitting data using low bandwidth network.

9. Claims 8-13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Flohr as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Conway (US PAT. 5,444,476, filed 12/11/92).

Regarding claim 8, 9, the combination does not teach the use of the following: at least one second monitor for displaying visual images associated with at least one work station, and second monitor is affixed to a side portion of the first monitor at approximately the eye-level of a participant in a teleconference who is using the workstation.

However, Conway discloses system and method for teleinteraction which teaches the use of second monitor B for displaying visual images associated with at least one work station, and second monitor is affixed to a side portion of the first monitor at approximately the eye-level of a participant in a teleconference who is using the workstation (Fig. 1, col. 5 lines 18-68, col. 6 lines 1-68, col. 7 lines 1-15).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to have at least one second monitor for displaying visual images associated with at least one work station, and second monitor is affixed to a side portion of the first monitor at approximately the eye-level of a participant in a teleconference who is using

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the workstation as this would enable greater teleinteraction among the participants as taught by Conway.

Regarding claims 10-13, modified by claim 8, Shibata further shows the following: an echo-canceler 1200 (Fig. 12) to reduce echo during the reproduction of the audio; an audio adder 1212 (audio summer) for receiving the captured audio of first, second and third participant and combining the received audio of the second and third participants into an audio sum for reproduction at the apparatus of the first participant (Fig. 12, 13, col. 4 lines 56-63, col. 12 lines 64-68, col. 13 lines 1-35); an audio control configured to cause the reproduction of the audio sum at the participants work station such that the composition of the audio originating from each of the second and third participant's reproduced at each speaker is dependant on a position of the second and third participants images reproduced on the first participants's workstation monitor; an echo canceler 1200 (Fig.12) is included in the housing (Figs. 2-5, col. 4 lines 42-68, col. 5 lines 1-38).

10. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Flohr as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Ohnsorge.

Regarding claims 14, 15, the combination does not teach the following: a wireless communication connection between the housing and a signal transmitting network; wireless communication connection configured to accept signals transmitted by cellular telephone channels.

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However, Ohnsorge discloses handheld radio telephone with video transmission and display which teaches wireless communication connection between the housing and a signal transmitting network; wireless connection configured to accept signals transmitted by cellular telephones (Fig. 1, 2, col. 2 lines 1-36).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Shibata's system to have the following: a wireless communication connection between the housing and a signal transmitting network, wireless communication connection configured to accept signals transmitted by cellular telephone channels. as this would offer independence and freedom to move the housing to any location without being constrained by the availability of communication connection and also would enable to receive cellular calls thus enhancing the versatility of the system.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-9508.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

12. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


CURTIS A. KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700